



# CIS-2008 Major Findings Supplementary Tables: Housing by Primary Substantiated Maltreatment and Risk

---

Prepared by Rachael Lefebvre, Nico Trocmé & Barbara Fallon based on:

Trocmé, N., Fallon, B., MacLaurin, B., Sinha, V., Black, T., Fast, E., Felstiner, C., Hélie, S., Turcotte, D., Weightman, P., Douglas, J., & Holroyd, J. (2010) Canadian Incidence Study of Reported Child Abuse and Neglect – 2008: Major Findings, Chapters 1-5. Public Health Agency of Canada: Ottawa, 2010.

## Introduction

The Canadian Incidence Study of Reported Child Abuse and Neglect-2008 (CIS-2008) is the third nation-wide study to examine the incidence of reported child maltreatment and the characteristics of children and families investigated by child welfare authorities in Canada. In addition to the tables presented in the [Major Findings](#) report, the Supplementary Tables Information Sheet Series describes key child, household and investigation characteristics by primary category of substantiated maltreatment including confirmed risk. This Information Sheet examines housing type and number of household moves.

## Findings

There were an estimated 235,842 maltreatment-related investigations conducted in Canada in 2008. An estimated 174,411 investigations were for an incident of maltreatment and an estimated 61,431 were risk-only investigations. At the end of the initial investigation, 49% of maltreatment investigations were substantiated (85,440 investigations) and in 20% of risk investigations, the worker determined there was a significant risk of future maltreatment (12,018 investigations).

Table 1 displays housing type in substantiated maltreatment and confirmed risk investigations.

Table 1.

*Housing type by primary category of substantiated maltreatment, including confirmed risk, in Canada in 2008<sup>^</sup>*

	Primary Category of Maltreatment												Total	
	Physical Abuse		Sexual Abuse		Neglect		Emotional Maltreatment		Exposure to IPV		Risk			
Housing	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Own home	8,256	48	1,159	45	5,685	20	2,167	29	9,591	33	2,697	22	29,555	30
Rental	5,951	35	961	37	13,427	46	3,002	40	13,896	48	4,975	41	42,212	43
Public housing	1,271	7	202	8	4,516	16	912	12	2,772	10	2,162	18	11,835	12
Band housing	398	2	118	5	2,704	9	546	7	387	1	1,007	8	5,160	5
Hotel/Shelter	-	-	-	-	524	2	-	-	712	2	193	2	1,602	2
Other	241	1	-	-	824	3	263	4	809	3	673	6	2,828	3
Unknown	1,036	6	132	5	1,258	4	437	6	1,092	4	312	3	4,267	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>17,213</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>2,607</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>28,938</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>7,423</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>29,259</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>12,019</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>97,459</b>	<b>100</b>

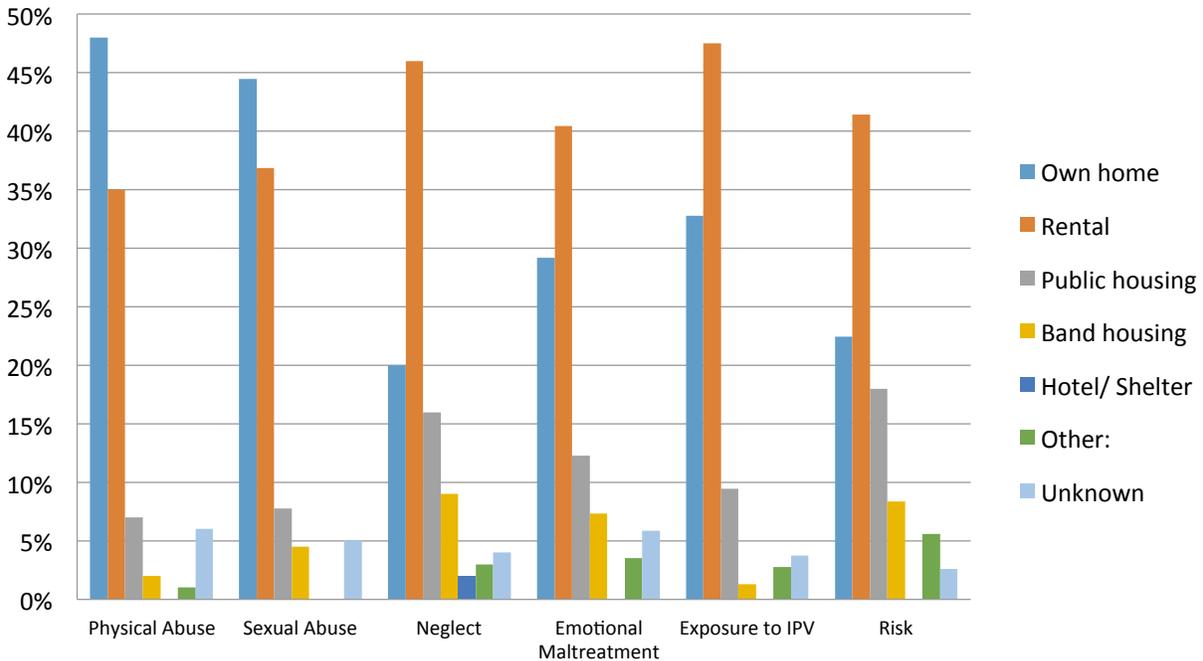
<sup>^</sup> Based on a sample of 7,032 substantiated child maltreatment-related investigations with information about housing. Percentages are column percentages, but may not add to 100% because of rounding.

- Estimates of less than 100 investigations are not shown, but are included in the total.

Overall most cases of substantiated maltreatment or confirmed risk of maltreatment involved families living in rental (43%), public (12%) or band (5%) housing, with another 30% being homeowners. As shown in Table 1, type of housing varied by form of substantiated maltreatment and confirmed risk. Just under half (48%) of substantiated physical abuse investigations, 45% of substantiated sexual abuse investigations, 33% of substantiated exposure to intimate partner violence (IPV) investigations, 29% of substantiated emotional maltreatment investigations, 22% of confirmed risk investigations, and 20% of substantiated neglect investigations involved children living in purchased homes. A majority of confirmed risk (59%), substantiated neglect (62%), substantiated emotional maltreatment (52%), and substantiated exposure to IPV investigations (59%) involved children living in rental accommodations (private rentals and public housing). Please see Figure 1 for a visual representation of these findings.

Figure 1.

*Housing type by primary category of substantiated maltreatment, including confirmed risk, in Canada in 2008*



Workers were also asked to indicate the number of household moves within the past twelve months of the initial investigation. As shown in Table 2, in the majority of substantiated physical abuse, substantiated sexual abuse, and substantiated emotional maltreatment investigations, families had not moved in the previous 12 months. Workers reported at least one household move in the past 12 months in 31% of substantiated exposure to IPV investigations, 33% of substantiated neglect investigations, and 42% of confirmed risk investigations. Number of household moves was unknown in a quarter of substantiated neglect investigations (25%).

Table 2.

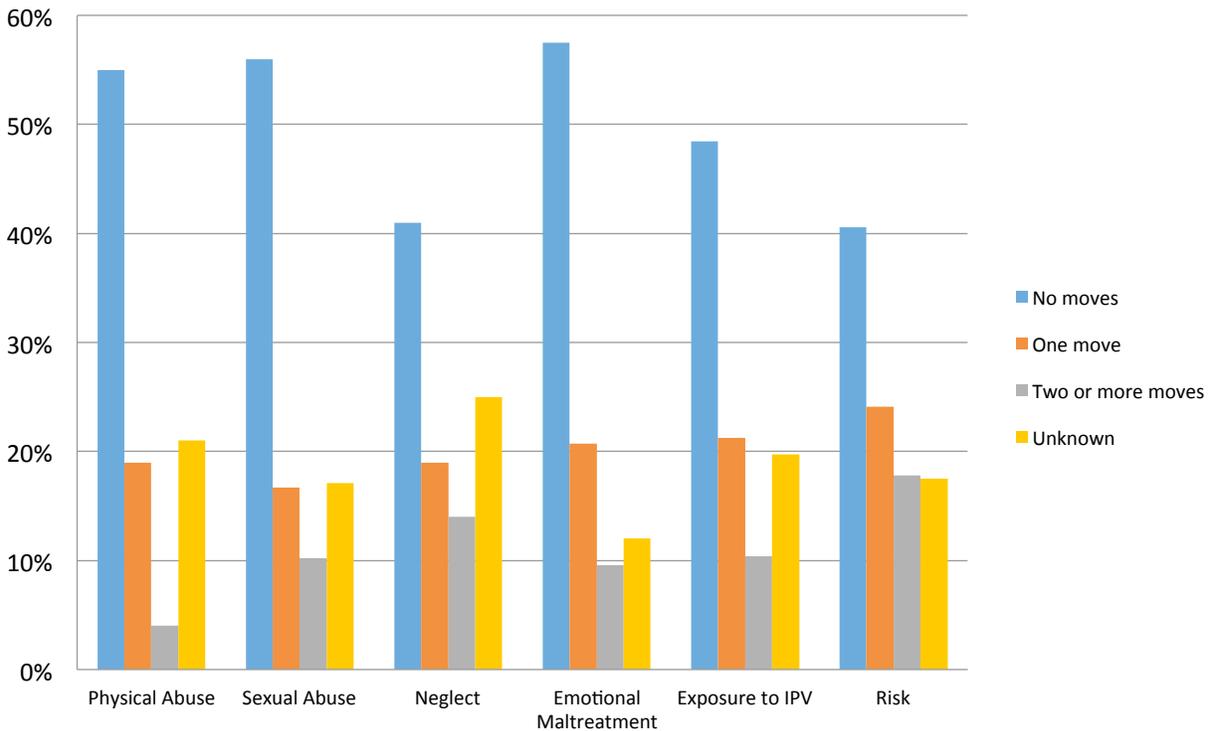
*Household moves within the last twelve months by primary category of substantiated maltreatment, including confirmed risk, in Canada in 2008<sup>^</sup>*

	Primary Category of Maltreatment												Total	
	Physical Abuse		Sexual Abuse		Neglect		Emotional Maltreatment		Exposure to IPV		Risk			
Number of Moves	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
No moves	9,512	55	1,460	56	11,965	41	267	58	14,168	49	4,874	41	46,246	48
One	3,296	19	435	17	5,602	19	1,540	21	6,216	21	2,899	24	19,988	21
Two or more	772	5	266	10	4,067	14	709	10	3,042	10	2,142	18	10,998	11
Unknown	3,631	21	446	17	7,252	25	891	12	5,766	20	2,103	18	20,089	21
<b>Total</b>	<b>17,211</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>2,607</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>28,886</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>3,407</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>29,192</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>12,018</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>97,321</b>	<b>100</b>

^ Based on a sample of 7,026 substantiated child maltreatment-related investigations with information about number of household moves. Percentages are column percentages, but may not add to 100% because of rounding.

Please see Figure 2 for a visual representation of these findings.

Figure 2.  
*Household moves within the last twelve months by primary category of substantiated maltreatment, including confirmed risk, in Canada in 2008*



## Background

Responsibility for protecting and supporting children at risk of abuse and neglect falls under the jurisdiction of the 13 Canadian provinces and territories and a system of Aboriginal child welfare agencies which have increasing responsibility for protecting and supporting Aboriginal children. Because of variations in the types of situations that each jurisdiction includes under its child welfare mandate as well as differences in the way service statistics are kept, it is difficult to obtain a nation-wide profile of the children and families receiving child welfare services. The Canadian Incidence Study of Reported Child Abuse and Neglect (CIS) is designed to provide such a profile by collecting information on a periodic basis from every jurisdiction using a standardized set of definitions. With core funding from the Public Health Agency of Canada and in-kind and financial support from a consortium of federal, provincial, territorial, Aboriginal and

academic stakeholders, the CIS-2008 is the third nation-wide study of the incidence and characteristics of investigated child abuse and neglect across Canada.

## **Methodology**

The CIS-2008 used a multi-stage sampling design to select a representative sample of 112 child welfare agencies in Canada and then to select a sample of cases within these agencies. Information was collected directly from child welfare workers on a representative sample of 15,980 child protection investigations conducted during a three-month sampling period in the fall of 2008. This sample was weighted to reflect provincial annual estimates.

For maltreatment investigations, information was collected regarding the primary form of maltreatment investigated as well as the level of substantiation for that maltreatment. Thirty-two forms of maltreatment were listed on the data collection instrument, and these were collapsed into five broad categories: physical abuse (e.g., hit with hand), sexual abuse (e.g., exploitation), neglect (e.g., educational neglect), emotional maltreatment (e.g., verbal abuse or belittling), and exposure to intimate partner violence (e.g., direct witness to physical violence). Workers listed the primary concern for the investigation, and could also list secondary and tertiary concerns.

For each form of maltreatment listed, workers assigned a level of substantiation. Maltreatment could be substantiated (i.e., the balance of evidence indicated that the maltreatment had occurred), suspected (i.e., the maltreatment could neither be confirmed nor ruled out), or unfounded (i.e., the balance of evidence indicated that the maltreatment had not occurred).

For each risk investigation, workers determined whether the child was at significant risk of future maltreatment. The worker could decide that the child was at significant risk of future maltreatment (confirmed risk), that the child was not at significant risk of future maltreatment (unfounded risk), or that the future risk of maltreatment was unknown.

For housing, workers were asked to select the housing accommodation category that best described the child's household living situation at the time of referral.

A detailed presentation of the study methodology and of the definitions of each variable is available at <http://cwrp.ca/publications/cis-2008-study-methods>.

## **Limitations**

The CIS collects information directly from child welfare workers at the point when they completed their initial investigation of a report of possible child abuse or neglect, or risk of future maltreatment. Therefore, the scope of the study is limited to the type of information available to them at that point. The CIS does not include information about unreported maltreatment nor about cases that were investigated only by the police. Also, reports that were made to child welfare authorities but were screened out (not opened for investigation) were not included. Similarly, reports on cases currently open at the time of case selection were not included. The study did not track longer-term service events that occurred beyond the initial investigation.

Three limitations to estimation method used to derive annual estimated should also be noted. The agency size correction uses child population as a proxy for agency size; this does not account for variations in per capita investigation rates across agencies in the same strata. The annualization weight corrects for seasonal fluctuation in the volume of investigations, but it does not correct for seasonal variations in types of investigations conducted. Finally, the annualization weight includes cases that were investigated more than once in the year as a result of the case being re-opened following a first investigation completed earlier in the same year. Accordingly, the weighted annual estimates represent the child maltreatment-related investigations, rather than investigated children.

Comparisons across CIS reports must be made with caution. The forms of maltreatment tracked by each cycle were modified to take into account changes in investigation mandates and practices. Comparisons across cycles must in particular take into consideration the fact that the CIS-2008 was the first to explicitly track risk-only investigations. In addition, readers are cautioned to avoid making direct comparisons with provincial and First Nations oversampling reports because of differences in the way national and oversampling estimates are derived.

**Suggested Citation:** Lefebvre, R., Trocmé, N., & Fallon, B. (2012). Housing by Primary Substantiated Maltreatment and Risk. Based on, *Trocmé, N., Fallon, B., MacLaurin, B., Sinha, V., Black, T., Fast, E. et al. (2010)*. Canadian Incidence Study of Reported Child Abuse and Neglect – 2008: Major Findings, Chapters 1-5. Public Health Agency of Canada: Ottawa, 2010. CWRP Information Sheet #108E. Canadian Child Welfare Research Portal: Toronto, ON